

Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force

Minutes

Wednesday, September 27th, 2017

- Present: Roberta Roll, Lenny Barham, Andy Fisher, Tom Goldsworthy, Peter Kelly , Jenn Redman (Phone), and Jeanne Mettler (Town Board Liaison)
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- Minutes of the 7/26/17 meeting were approved with minor changes.
- **Bike Copake (September 22)** - Tom reported on the Ramble and informed the group that the number of riders doubled from last year. 310 riders had signed up and 290 actually rode. Over \$14,000 was raised for the Rail Trail and 36 folks had volunteered at the event. Andy Fisher sponsored the band after the event and Jeanne commented how hard Tom worked to make this the most successful Ramble to date. The riders came from, 23% 3 towns, 7% Columbia County, 28% Upstate NY, 27% Downstate, 15% out of state based on addresses provided. 80% of the riders were over 40 years old and next year an effort will be made for younger riders. Also, 36 businesses helped sponsor the event. One medical call was made to the Ancram town hall. Next year a pick up van will be discussed along with better signage at key intersections. A century ride will be discussed to attract more advanced riders. The Ramble participants gave great feedback and expressed what a beautiful area Copake, Hillsdale and Ancram are located in.
- **Historic District Designation Meeting (October 20th)** - Bill Krattinger cancelled the July meeting with Peter but rescheduled for Friday October 20th in the afternoon. Peter will email the group the details. The Octagon House owned and occupied by Helen Mang will be the most sought after designation since it is so beloved especially after Howard Blue's recent Facebook article was posted.
- **Former Roe Jan School** - Andy reported that one group interested in the school determined that the school was too costly to rehab for their budget. Another group was interested in exploring senior housing and investigating state funds for such a project.
- **Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)** - John Winbush is in charge of our work plan for the LWRP grant and details need to be fleshed out and paperwork signed by Town of Copake. The grant requires a \$ for \$ by town; volunteer hours can be credited toward the 40K needed. IT was discussed what volunteer hours can be counted and from what groups such as Bike Copake and Hamlet Task Force. More needs to be investigated before submitting hours. However, each eligible volunteer hour could be credited at the rate of \$25.00.
- **Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC)** - Roberta reported that Mike Tucker came and they drove around the area. Pilot programs were discussed and what next steps should be taken.

- **New Business** - Copake General Store new owner is currently renovating the store. The woman's name is Seung Suh and she lives in Ancramdale. She discovered the Copake General Store opportunity through the CEDC. Her parents owned a store so she is familiar with the industry and It is a life time dream for Seung to own a general store.
- The Copake Inn has been leased and a bar/restaurant will be opening up next spring. The building is currently being worked on.
- A Business Alliance was discussed, and with the Green County Bank opening, now may be a good time to get businesses involved with this idea. Also discussed Face Book and an article in the Copake Connection.
- Events to draw people to town were discussed and the idea to work with Copake Parks and Recreation would be a good idea. Events such as a triathlon, a winter sports event and festival featuring an agricultural product were mentioned. Also, getting the Grange involved in hosting events in the Hamlet would be a good idea.
- Other Business- Jeanne mentioned the Town will pay for signs to direct traffic into the hamlet business district from Route 22. Rus Davis supports the Holiday Trees program and we need to start planning the event now.

Next Meeting Scheduled for October 25,2017

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Kelly